

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/559,773

Examiner

Emily Y. Chan

Applicant(s)

KUNIMUNE, YORINOBU

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 6/5/07.2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).a) All b) Some* c) None of the:1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.**Attachment(s)**1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),

Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material5. Notice of Informal Patent Application6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

On page 1 of the specification, under " SCANNING PROBE INSPECTION APPARATUS",

Inserted the following new paragraph,

---- This application is a national stage application under 35 USC 371 of PCT/JP03/12389, filed on September 29,2003 ---.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-12 are allowed over the prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 2 are allowed because the examiner found out that the applicant's argument in the Remarks filed on 6/5/07 is persuasive. Applicant argued that the claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite a bias voltage supplier (see Fig. 1, 12) for supplying a bias voltage between a pair of pads (1) of a chain pattern (2) and two probes (10) arranged at a spacing determined by a distance between exposed portions inside of the pads. Applicant also argued that the recited detector is able to identify a defect of a measuring target having a resistance value (page 1 of the Remarks) and i

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In contrast, the bias voltage supply 35 and voltmeter 31 of the reference Cao et al ('389) are both provided between the probes 17 and 18 such that the device of Cao ('389) are unable to detect small resistance value.

During the further search, the examiner does not find out that the prior art in the record teach or suggest a scanning probe inspection apparatus comprising two probes (10) arranged at a spacing determined by a distance between exposed portions inside of the pads. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 are allowed. Claims 3-4,6-7 and 8-12 are dependent on claims 1 and 2 respectively and are allowed accordingly. Claim 5 was indicated allowable in the previous office action dated on 3/7/07.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

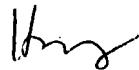
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Y. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1956. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha T Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

8/1/07
EC



HA TRAN NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER